

MILES OF OCEAN BOTTOM SEARCHED

Diver Tells of Difficulty in Locating Wreck of Treasure Ship.

CASH AND SILVER BULLION

Other Wrecks Are Found by Treasure-Hunting Crew, One of Them Apparently Being That of a Steamer.

Norfolk, Va.—Searching for a sunken ship on which there is over \$1,000,000 in money and silver bullion, the treasure-hunting crew of 34 men under the command of Capt. George Stillson, a master diver, inventor and expert in submarine engineering, is not proving an easy task, Stillson says.

The treasure-laden ship is, or was, the Ward line steamer Merida. She was sunk in the summer of 1911 about fifty-five miles off Cape Charles Lightship when she was rammed by the freight steamer Admiral Farragut. The Merida carried over 300 passengers, all of whom were taken off by the Farragut and transferred to the Old Dominion steamer Hamilton, which landed them in Norfolk.

Among the passengers were a number of Americans fleeing from Mexico. They had with them the savings of their lifetimes and these savings they say, were locked in the safe in the office of the purser of the Merida. When the steamer was struck the water poured through the hole in her starboard side so fast that they did not have time to save any of their valuables.

The Merida also carried silver bullion said to have been worth over \$600,000. The purser's safe is filled with money and jewelry. The vessel's cargo was fruit.

Treasure-Hunting Fleet.

The treasure-hunting fleet is composed of the yacht J. H. Beckwith, the trawler Fearless and a barge used by divers. There are about a dozen divers in the outfit, including F. Nilsson, who is said to have been the first to explore the bottom of the Atlantic near where the Merida went down.

Capt. C. Hermanson, who is in command of the flagship of the fleet, is of the opinion that if the Merida is found she will be some miles away from the spot where she went down.

Divers have explored two miles of the Atlantic ocean, it is stated, and have found several wrecks, one of them apparently a steamer, but it was not the one they sought. Divers sent up portions of a deckhouse of the steamer. There was nothing of value in the wreck.

Captain Stillson says he has not given up hope of finding the Merida and is not disappointed at not finding the vessel at the point where she went down.

"A vessel seldom goes right straight to the bottom when she sinks," he says, "especially where the water is deep and the currents strong." It is possible that the Merida is ten miles away from the spot where she went down. Under currents sometimes carry a vessel miles away before she settles on the bottom. And after she strikes the bottom, shifting sands sometimes carry a vessel several miles.

Captain Hermanson also is of the opinion that the Merida will be found, and the divers, too, are confident.

The men tell of encountering strange-looking objects under water, of stumbling against a sunken vessel, or meeting a shark face to face.

Search Is Thorough.

After searching five miles in one direction, the treasure hunters will return to the spot where the Merida went down and search five miles in another direction. After they have gone north, south, east and west for

LEADER OF INDIAN TROOPS



Sir Pertab Singh is one of Britain's most loyal colonial sons. He is an Indian of highest birth and is in command of the Indian forces fighting for the allies on the western front.

five miles, they will continue the search for five miles further in the same directions. If she is not found before winter comes on it is probable that the search will be abandoned until next spring.

The expedition is a costly one. The divers are paid as high as \$10 a day. It is said that Captain Stillson will receive a big bonus if the expedition is a success, and "fair" compensation if it fails.

In marine circles it is believed that the Merida will not be found. It is figured that in the five years since she went down she is probably completely covered by sands, and divers might walk over the spot where she lies without knowing it.

The treasure hunters come to Norfolk and Newport News about every two weeks to take on fuel and supplies.

\$20 REWARD FOR \$400 RING

Honest Waitress Found It and Returned Jewel to Mrs. Whitworth.

Colorado Springs, Colo.—Luck was with Mrs. Rose Whitworth, wife of a Tulsa (Okla.) business man, when she dropped a diamond setting from her rings in the McIne cafe.

The gem weighs two karats and is valued at \$400. It slipped from the owner's hand while she was at lunch. Three hours later she returned, having missed the jewel, and Billy Jones, manager, was able to return her diamond by reason of the honesty of the waitress, who found it on the floor.

The waitress is richer by \$20 and Mrs. Whitworth is happy, the diamond having been a pre-nuptial gift from her husband.

GOLD IN CHICKENS' CROPS

Auburn, Cal.—Thomas Gamlin of the Mount Vernon district has some very valuable chickens. Recently he killed two and found gold nuggets in their crops valued at about one dollar.

As the chickens were penned in a small space on the hillside Gamlin immediately began investigations and soon unearthed a quartz ledge which he will further prospect.

CABLE IN USE HALF CENTURY

Cyrus W. Field's Faith in Ocean Telegraphs Was Justified in 1866.

EARLY PROJECTS FAILURES

Since, July 27, 1866, New World Has Been in Continuous Communication With Old by Submarine Cable.

New York.—It is a little more than a half century since the completion of the first permanent Atlantic telegraph, observes the New York Evening World. Since July 27, 1866, the new world has been in continuous and uninterrupted communication with the old world by means of the submarine cable. The final success was achieved only after several disheartening failures. As early as 1843 Prof. Samuel F. B. Morse suggested the possibility of an Atlantic telegraph line.

Just a decade later Cyrus W. Field, a wealthy merchant, became interested in a plan for laying an underground cable across Newfoundland and in the following year, 1851, he secured the cooperation of Peter Cooper, Moses Taylor and others in a scheme for a trans-Atlantic cable. The manufacture of 2,500 miles of wire was completed in 1857 and the task of laying it was commenced at Valentia, Ireland, in August of that year, two American and two British vessels being engaged. After a few miles had been laid the cable snapped. This was repaired, but after 300 miles of wire had been put down it snapped again and the vessels returned to Plymouth.

Success Short Lived.

A storm caused the failure of a second attempt, but the third voyage, in 1858, was successful, and the junction between the two continents was effected by 2,059 miles of wire stretching from the Irish coast to Newfoundland. Messages were exchanged between Queen Victoria and President Buchanan and there was great rejoicing on both sides of the ocean.

The jubilation proved premature, however, for in a short time the cable ceased to work and was branded a failure. The faith of Field did not waver, and, although the Civil war prevented an early revival of the project, in 1865 a new company began the laying of another cable. The famous vessel, the Great Eastern, was dispatched to Ireland with the wire, but again the project ended in failure.

Mr. Field then launched the Anglo-American Telegraph company, and in July, 1866, the Great Eastern steamed

STRANGE FRENCH AIRCRAFT



The censor has permitted the publication of this photograph of a French war balloon, called a "sausage" at the front. This strange-looking aircraft is used for observation purposes.

Bullet Between Vertebrae.

Fort Wayne, Ind.—Surgeons successfully operated the other day on Pete Anastropfe, an Assyrian, to remove a bullet that had lodged between vertebrae in his neck when he was shot in the mouth at Van Wert, O., some weeks ago, and Anastropfe will recover, the surgeons said, after having been constantly in danger throughout the five weeks. The position of the bullet was such, it was said, that had Anastropfe moved his head violently he would have died. The bullet was touching the spinal cord and the operation was regarded as extremely serious.

away from Valentia laying another cable. July 27 the cable was completely laid at Heart's Content, Newfoundland, and the queen and the president again exchanged greetings. Soon after this happy event the lost cable of 1865 was recovered and placed in service.

In addition to the cables between Valentia and Heart's Content, Newfoundland, there are now cable lines between Waterville, Ireland, and Canso, N. S.; New York and Rockport, Mass.; Benazance, England, and Bay Roberts, N. F.; Canso, N. S., and New York; Bainskellig's Bay, Ireland, and Halifax, N. S., and Rye Beach, N. H., and Brest, France, and Cape Cod, Mass.

STORM HALTS THE FUNERAL

Heavy Rain Kept Persons in a Chapel All Night in Texas Cemetery.

Hillsboro, Tex.—Sixty-three persons who gathered in the chapel at the Brandon cemetery to attend the funeral of Mrs. Knuckles, were forced to spend the night there, being marooned by the heavy rainstorm which necessitated postponing the interment until the next morning.

During the funeral service the rain started and fell in such torrents that it formed little ditches which ran into the grave and completely filled it with mud and water. The grave was cleared in the morning and the interment held. It was too late to return home when the rain stopped, so those gathered for the funeral sent out and got some coffee and sat up all night so as to attend the burial the next morning.

GIRLS CLIMB HIGH CHIMNEY

Colorado Young Ladies Do the Fly Act on Dare From Male Companions.

Eaton, Colo.—Climbing hand over hand to the top of the smokestack on the sugar factory here, five young women of Eaton did the human-fly act on a dare by their male companions, who promised them a box of candy each if they accomplished the feat. The smokestack is 231 feet high and is built of cement. The women not only climbed to the top but returned to the ground in order without assistance from any of the men, some of whom had attempted the feat and failed. The young women who got to the top of the stack were Misses Martin White, Irene Pixler, Lettie White and Mesdames L. M. Steneking and Anna Bickle.

STORM LEFT MANY SNAKES

Six Are Killed on One Lawn in Texas After the Hurricane Passes.

San Antonio, Tex.—They're swatting snakes at Rockport now.

Col. Frank Holland killed six on the lawn on the lot on which his cottage stands near Rockport after Friday's hurricane, according to a report.

"Some of the snakes were rattlesnakes and were at least four feet long," it was said. "Colonel Holland and a neighbor were preparing to go fishing when the storm broke."

Drinks Act Like Magic.

St. Louis, Mo.—"Where am I?" asked Harry McStravick, thirty-one years old, when he came to at the city dispensary after Sergeant Peters found him in a stupor in front of 1512 North Leffingwell avenue. "St. Louis!" he exclaimed, when his query was answered. "I'd like to know how I got here. The last I remember I was leaving home in New Orleans and starting for a show." McStravick said he had taken one or two drinks in New Orleans.

Ready to Preach the Gospel

By REV. W. W. KETCHUM
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TEXT—So as much as in me is I am ready to preach the Gospel to you that are at Rome also.—Rom. 1:15.

The Greek term which the word ready translates, does not have in it so much the idea

of preparedness as it does eagerness. It gives us a picture of the apostle standing as it were on tip-toe facing the imperial city, his countenance expressing the passion of his heart to preach the Gospel to the people of that city.

I can imagine as the apostle stands like a hound at leash,

eager to be off, someone tugging at his cloak and saying, "Don't go to Rome, Paul, to preach the Gospel of the cross. They will laugh your story to scorn. Rome, remember, was the home of Cicero, and his orations are still studied there, and Seneca is discoursing in the streets. Go to them, Paul, with a little sociology, religious pathology and ethical culture, but not with the word of the cross." And Paul answers back: "I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth, to the Jew first and also to the Greek."

There are people today who tell us that the Gospel of the cross doesn't meet the modern mind. Well, I may know little of the modern mind, but I do know a great deal about the modern heart, and one thing is this, that it is still "deceitful above all things and desperately wicked," and, thank God, I know what can meet its needs and that is the cross of Christ. The trouble, friends, is not with our heads but with our hearts; let them be cleansed by the blood of Christ and the modern mind has no difficulty in understanding the story of the cross. Problems there may be, but the heart that knows the cleansing power of the blood clings in simple faith to the Cross of Christ.

Then there are those who say that the Cross of Christ does not meet the problem of today. What problems are there today that were not the problems of yesterday? What about the moral corruption of the times? Is it any worse than it was in Paul's day? When the apostle was eager to go to Rome, lecherous, reprobate Nero, who had sunk almost to the nethermost hell, was on the throne. Yet Paul was not desirous of going to Rome with a moral mud scow, but with the Gospel of Christ. He knew what some moderns do not know, that reformation follows regeneration, and so he was eager to preach in that corrupt city the Gospel of the cross. What a lesson to some would-be preachers of today who, not knowing the power of the Gospel to regenerate society, are trying with their puny scoops to cleanse the cesspools of iniquity, when they have at their command the dynamite of God. We might just as well try to batter down a fortress with a popgun and toy pistol as to attempt to overcome the forces of evil in the world by any moral reformation which leaves out the cross of Christ.

But what about a world immersed in pleasure? Will the Gospel reach such a world? As Paul stood facing Rome, mad with pleasure, he said, "I am ready to preach the Gospel to you that are at Rome also." And yet the city was almost altogether given over to pleasure. During the reign of Claudius, who preceded Nero on the throne, the gladiatorial games became almost an insane frenzy and in Nero's time, as we know, it was no better. Paul, however, was eager to go there with the Gospel. It is a great challenge that the pleasure-loving world gives the preachers of today. How shall they meet it? Shall they, in extremity, try something else besides the Gospel, or is the Gospel still the power of God unto salvation, even unto a pleasure-loving world? One of the saddest sights to behold is a ministry that has abandoned the Gospel and substituted in the place a sociological shovel and a pathological plaster. If hell ever laughs it laughs at such a substitution, for it knows that make-shifts will never meet the world's need and defeat hell.

Come on, preachers, the world challenges us, let us meet the challenge with Paul's "I am ready to preach the Gospel." What Gospel? Why, the Gospel of the cross, of course, for there is none other. And with Paul let us say, no matter what the world may say, we are not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ. Why not ashamed? "Because it is the dynamite of God." That means it has in itself the power to do business for God. No wonder Paul, facing intellectual, corrupt, pleasure-loving Rome, said, "I am ready, I am not ashamed to preach the Gospel to you that are at Rome also."

God's Judgment Sure.

God sees sin: He remembers sin: He hates sin: He cannot be just without punishing sin; and he has said that he will punish it.—Cooper.

NEWS and GOSSIP of WASHINGTON



How Washington's "Morse Elm" Received Its Name

WASHINGTON.—The most interesting of all the old trees in the capital is the huge old elm which stands at the corner of Pennsylvania avenue and Fourteenth street in front of what used to be the old Willard hotel. Many years ago this was the popular resort of the nation's statesmen, who were wont to assemble beneath its shade, tilt their chairs against its trunk and spin many historic yarns, punctuated by well-aimed salvos of tobacco juice. Here, also, came the newspaper correspondents from newspaper row, just above the hotel on Fourteenth street, and heard the latest political achievements discussed with careless informality.

One day when the tree was sheltering an unusually large assembly of notables, a familiar figure joined them and asked them to congratulate him on his good luck. He had succeeded, he said, in inventing an instrument by which people could talk from Baltimore to Washington.

It is to be regretted that our learned American statesmen and newspaper men received the statement as a huge joke, and suggested that the only way the amiable inventor could retrieve his reputation for sanity was to treat them all to drinks. It was not until a few weeks later when congress made an appropriation for Dr. Samuel F. B. Morse to continue his work on a telegraph line from Baltimore to Washington that the tree gatherers learned their error and the fact that they had entertained a genius unawares. Since that time the tree has been known as the Morse elm.

Golf Helps President Wilson to Solve Problems

GOLF is credited by President Wilson with making possible the solving of knotty international problems, handling of Mexican affairs and all the thousand and one things a busy president must do. By golf he rests his mind so thoroughly he can think clearly and act intelligently during working hours.

President Wilson has one of the finest sets of golf sticks in the country. They were made for him in England by a professional and given to him by his brother, John A. Wilson, of Franklin, Pa.

They are longer clubs than used by the average player, each having more than a 40-inch shaft. His brother also gave him a doekin golf bag to hold not only the 15 clubs, but a rubber coat and hat the president always takes with him when he golfs.

The president's golf game is characterized by steadiness and care. He plays what is known as a "short game," taking two shots to cover a distance another player might attempt in one. The president's long suit is putting. He is steady and accurate.

President Wilson's definition of golf may be new to some people. He says: "Golf is an ineffectual attempt to put an elusive ball into an obscure hole with uncontrollable instruments."

Most of the president's golfing is done at the Washington Country club, across the river in Virginia. This is a small club made up mostly of government officials, people from the Smithsonian institution and the scientific bureaus. There are no social features; it is exclusively golf.

Players at the club have learned to treat the president as he likes to be treated—as merely another member of the club. He is shown no special consideration or courtesies. He is always trailed by the secret service men. The president always takes the caddies as they come and pays the caddie 35 cents, the customary charge for 18 holes.

Rookies Must Be Taught to Deliver Messages

THE training of raw recruits is a perpetual circus. Col. G. B. Young of the Third Infantry went from Washington over to the Radio camp, where the National Guardsmen and new recruits are in camp. His automobile got stuck in the mud, and a passing rookie, who looked like a soldier, was hailed by the colonel, and told to send some men down to help get his machine out of the mud, and this is the way Colonel Young told him to deliver the message:

"The colonel of the regiment presents his compliments to the officer of the guard and requests that a detail of the guard be sent to help an automobile out of the mud."

The rookie, of course, hastened to the guard tent, saluted slouchily, and this is the way he delivered the message:

"A man up there wants a bunch of you men to get an auto out of the mud."

Lieut. Col. Anton Stephan, who heard both ends of the message, has devised a scheme for training the men in the repeating of messages. Some time during the night different men on guard are given a message, the guards repeat it to the corporal of the guard; the corporal tells the sergeant and the sergeant carries the news to the lieutenant. Then the message as received and as sent is compared.

Congress May Really Curtail "Leave to Print"

SOMETIME, perhaps during the next session of congress, that dearly beloved institution, "the leave to print," under which congressmen annually send, postage free, to their constituents tons of imaginary speeches they never made—liberally sprinkled with mythical "laughter" and psychological "applause"—may be curtailed. A bipartisan report from the joint printing committee urges these facts in favor of the bill:

A million volumes a year, many printed on fine paper and bound in leather, have to be sold as waste paper because no one takes the trouble to frank them out.

Janitors and building superintendents complain that whole basements are literally filled with virtual waste paper, so that the government has to rent additional space to store coal and wood.

Private manufacturing firms, acting in collusion with senators and members, have had printed and franked at public expense "puffs"—virtual advertisements of their plants, factories and industries.

The new bill provides for cutting down of departmental documents, all of which are, by law, required to be printed now, and provides that senate and house committees must examine every document which it is proposed to print. To prevent possible suppression of reports which the senate may wish printed it is provided the houses may override committee action, or inaction.

VERY RARE.

"Is it true," asked the chiropodist's patient, "that one can get corns from wearing shoes that are too large as well as from wearing tight ones?" "Theoretically, I've no doubt it is true," replied the foot specialist. "But in all my twenty years' experience I've never yet seen a case of 'em kind."